AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and 24-27 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and amend Claims 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 as follows:

9. (Original) An assembly for securing one or more disks to a hub of a disk drive, said assembly comprising:

a spindle hub having a circumferential groove formed thereon, said groove being defined by at least one sloping surface;

a disk clamp mounted over said spindle hub, said disk clamp including a central opening defined by at least one angled surface which lies adjacent said at least one sloping surface when said disk clamp is mounted over said spindle hub, said disk clamp further including a lower surface, an upper surface, a peripheral flange integral with said disk clamp and extending radially outward and downward from said lower surface, and a circumferential groove formed on said upper surface; and

a retaining member inserted in a gap between said at least one sloping surface and said at least one angled surface.

10. (Original) An assembly, as claimed in claim 9, further including:

a balance ring mounted in said circumferential groove.

11. (Presently Amended) An assembly for securing one or more disks to a hub of a disk drive, said assembly comprising:

a spindle hub having a circumferential groove formed thereon, said groove being defined by at least one sloping surface;

a disk clamp mounted over said spindle hub, said disk clamp including a central opening defined by at least one angled surface which lies adjacent to said at least one sloping surface when said disk clamp is mounted over said spindle hub, said disk clamp further having an annular body portion including upper and lower surfaces, a peripheral edge, means ~~extending along~~ spaced radially inward from said peripheral edge for allowing said annular body portion to deflect in response to an axial load placed on said annular body portion, and a circumferential groove formed on said upper surface; and

a retaining member inserted in a gap between said at least one sloping surface and said at least one angled surface.

12. (Original) An assembly, as claimed in claim 11, further including:

a balance ring mounted in said circumferential groove.

13. (Presently Amended) A method of securing one or more data disks to a hub of a disk drive, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a disk clamp having a ~~lower~~ peripheral flange, and a central opening defined by ~~an inner concentric edge having a first~~ at least one angled surface;

providing a spindle hub having a circumferential groove formed thereon, said circumferential groove being defined by at least one sloping surface;

mounting the clamp over the hub so that said angled surface of said clamp lies adjacent said sloping surface of said hub;

applying an axial load to said disk clamp;

deflecting said disk clamp in response to said axial load causing said ~~first~~ angled surface to displace away from said sloping surface;

inserting a retaining member between said angled surface and said sloping surface; and

releasing the axial load resulting in said angled surface moving back toward said sloping surface thereby wedging said retaining member between said angled surface and said sloping surface.

14. (Original) A method, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said angled surface and said sloping surface extend substantially parallel to one another.

15. (Presently Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

said angled surface and said sloping surface extend at an angle to one another between about zero degrees and ~~15~~ fifteen degrees.

16. (Presently Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 13, ~~further including the step of~~ wherein:

~~providing a~~ the retaining member is of a desired cross-sectional area prior to said inserting step to selectively adjust an amount of force supplied by the disk clamp to secure the one or more data disks.

17. (Previously Added) An assembly, as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said retaining member includes a plurality of arc sections selectively spaced from one another in said gap.

18. (Previously Added) An assembly, as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said retaining member includes a plurality of arc sections selectively spaced from one another in said gap.

19. (Presently Amended) A method of securing one or more data disks to a hub of a disk drive without the use of securing screws, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a disk clamp of unitary construction without screw holes, and a ~~single~~ central opening defined by ~~an inner concentric edge~~ at least an angled surface, said disk clamp further including a lower peripheral flange extending radially outward and downward from said disk clamp;

providing a spindle hub having a circumferential groove formed thereon;

mounting the clamp over the hub;

applying an axial load to the disk clamp;

deflecting the disk clamp in response to the axial load;

inserting a ~~retainer~~ retaining member in a gap between the ~~central opening~~ angled surface and the circumferential groove;

releasing the axial load resulting in partial return of the disk clamp from its deflected state thereby wedging the ~~retainer~~ retaining member between the disk clamp and the hub~~; and~~

~~preventing axial and radial displacement of the one or more data disks with respect to the hub by applying the axial load of sufficient magnitude to prevent said displacement~~.

20. (Presently Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

~~said central opening of the disk clamp is defined by an inner concentric edge having an angled surface,~~ said circumferential groove of the spindle hub ~~being~~ is defined by at least one sloping surface, wherein said release of the axial load results in said angled surface moving back towards said sloping surface thereby wedging the ~~retainer~~ retaining member between the angled surface and the sloping surface.

21. (Previously Added) A method, as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

said angled surface and said sloping surface extend substantially parallel to one another.

22. (Previously Added) A method, as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

said angled surface and said sloping surface extend at an angle to one another between about 0° and 15°.

23. (Previously Added) A method, as claimed in claim 19, further including the step of:

providing the retaining member of a desired cross-sectional area prior to said inserting step to selectively adjust a magnitude of force supplied by the disk clamp to secure the one or more data disks.